

22. (New) An electrosurgical device comprising:
- an elongated body including a proximal end and a distal end and defining a longitudinal axis, a pair of arms coupled to the distal end of the elongated body; and
- a single loop electrode coupled to the arms and substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the electrode comprising a ceramic material, a pair of end sections, and a base section, the base section forming a continuous curve and disposed between the end sections, each of the end sections extending from the base section to one of the arms, the base section having a metal coating disposed thereon and adapted to contact tissue, the end sections being free of the metal coating.
23. (New) The device of claim 22 wherein the electrode comprises an upper surface and a lower surface and the upper surface is smaller than the lower surface.
24. (New) The device of claim 23 wherein the lower surface is substantially convex and defines a radius of curvature relative to an axis substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, and the upper surface is substantially concave.
25. (New) The device of claim 22 wherein the metal coated base section comprises a conductive working region of the electrode.
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REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-3 and 5-11 were pending in the application. Claims 5, 6, and 11 are cancelled without prejudice to Applicants' ability to pursue the subject matter of one or

more of these claims in this or a related application. Claims 1-3 and 7-10 are hereby amended and new claims 22-25 are added.

Support for the amended claims 1-3 and 7-10 may be found throughout the specification and at least at page 6, lines 5-20 and Figures 1a and 1b. Support for new claim 22 may be found at least at page 14, lines 26-28 and Figures 1a and 1b. Support for new claims 23-24 may be found at least in Figure 1b, and support for new claim 25 may be found at least at page 14, line 28 and at page 15, line 1.

Following entry of the present amendment, claims 1-3, 7-10, and 22-26 are pending, with claims 1 and 22 being the only independent claims. Attached is a marked-up copy of the amended claims and a clean copy of all of the claims pending following entry of the present amendment.

Rejections of the Claims

Pending claims 1-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,843,019 to Eggers et al. (hereinafter "Eggers"), and pending claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Eggers.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to an electrosurgical device comprising a single loop electrode comprising a conductive material and coupled to a pair of arms. The electrode comprises a pair of end sections and a base section, wherein the base section forms a continuous curve and is disposed between the end sections. Each of the end sections extends from the base section to one of the arms, and a ceramic coating is disposed over the entire length of each of the end sections. The base section is free of the ceramic coating and is adapted to contact tissue.

Applicants submit that Eggers fails to teach or suggest the device recited in claim 1 at least because the electrode of Eggers does not have a base section that forms a continuous curve and that is free of a ceramic coating and that is disposed between two end sections which have a ceramic coating disposed over their entire length. Claims 2-3 and 7-10 depend from amended claim 1 and thus are also patentable.


Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Eggers in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,403,311 to Abele et al. (hereinafter "Abele"). This rejection of claim 11 is moot in light of the cancellation of claim 11 without prejudice.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants' request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of pending claims 1-3, 7-10, and 22-25 in due course. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative with any comments, questions, or any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Amended) An electrosurgical device comprising:

an elongated body including a proximal end and a distal end and defining a longitudinal axis [; at least one arm] , a pair of arms coupled to the distal end of the elongated body; and

[an] a single loop electrode coupled to [at least one arm,] the arms and substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the electrode comprising a conductive material, [including an upper surface and a lower surface, the lower surface being substantially convex and defining a radius of curvature relative to an axis substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis] a pair of end sections, and a base section, the base section forming a continuous curve and disposed between the end sections and adapted to contact tissue, each of the end sections extending from the base section to one of the arms, a ceramic coating disposed over the entire length of each of the end sections, the base section being free of the ceramic coating.
2. (Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein the electrode comprises an upper surface and a lower surface and the upper surface is smaller than the lower surface [of the electrode].
3. (Amended) The device of claim 2 wherein the the lower surface is substantially convex and defines a radius of curvature relative to an axis substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, and the upper surface [of the electrode] is substantially concave.
7. (Amended) The device of claim [6] 1 wherein the ceramic coating comprises alumina.
8. (Amended) The device of claim [6] 1 wherein the ceramic coating comprises

zirconia.

9. (Amended) The device of claim [6] 1 wherein the ceramic coating comprises alumina and titania.

10. (Amended) The device of claim [6] 1 wherein the ceramic coating has a thickness in the range from about 0.0002 inches to about 0.03 inches.